



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,603	02/28/2002	Anita Orhand	PF010026	1956
7590	04/19/2006		EXAMINER	
JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC. 2 INDEPENDENCE WAY P.O. BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			SENFI, BEHROOZ M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2621	
			DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/086,603	ORHAND ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Behrooz Senfi	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 and 19-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/24/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10 and 19 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Katata et al (US 6,088,061).

Regarding claims 1 and 19 - 20, Katata '061 discloses, MPEG "block wise coding of digital video images (i.e. fig. 1) in which each block is assigned a specific resolution dependent on a zone in which this block is located, an image comprising at least two zones to which different resolution are assigned (foreground and background, which

have different resolution) characterized in that the mixed blocks straddling two zone of different resolutions are detected, and zone corresponding to each pixel of these mixed blocks is determined so as to construct mixed blocks by allocating the resolution of this specific zone to this pixel to get constructed mixed blocks and to code the constructed mixed blocks, (foreground and background, which have different resolution, background image is consider as lower layer and foreground or part images are consider as upper layer, and the predicted block is the mixed blocks , col. 12, lines 31 – 44 and col. 17, lines 29 – 40).

Regarding claim 3, Katata '061 discloses, the coding of an image being performed by a coding of a base layer and of an improvement (enhancement) layer (figs. 5 and 6, lower and upper layer encoding), and at least one zone of low resolution, or background zone, and at least one zone of high resolution, or zone of interest, is allocated to the image, via differences in coding the improvement layers of the pixels lying in these zones, have been discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 5, Katata '061 discloses, the base layer and the improvement layer being determined separately, the allocation of resolution to the pixels of a mixed block is performed by taking account both of the base and of the improvement layer, (fig. 6, abstract).

Regarding claim 6, Katata '061 discloses, the improvement layer of the mixed block is determined by deducting the base layer from this mixed block whose pixels are coded according to different resolution (col. 17, lines 35 – 40).

Regarding claim 8, Katata '061 discloses, mixed block is allocated the lowest of the resolutions of the zones which it contains and that in the course of a second step the resolution of the pixels of this block lying in a zone of higher resolution (predicted block is the mixed blocks, col. 17, lines 29 – 40).

Regarding claims 9 - 10, Katata '061 discloses, the lowest resolution is obtained either via the base layer, or via the combination of the base layer with at least one improvement layer (col. 17, lines 35 – 40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 11 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katata '061 in view of Li (US 2002/0051488).

Regarding claim 2, Katata '061 teaches, MPEG blockwise video coding, and detecting different zones resolution, as discussed in claim 1 above. Katata '061 teaches MPEG encoding. But is silent in regards to the type of MPEG.

However, MPEG4 is known in the prior art of the record for shape and texture coding, as evidenced by Li '488 (i.e. page 1, section 0005).

In view of the above, taking the combined teaching of Katata and Li as a whole, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made

to specifically use MPEG4 in katata video coding for purpose of shape and texture coding of video images.

Regarding claim 11, combination of Katata '061 and Li '488 teaches, mixed block comprising two adjacent zones, one having a first resolution and the other a second resolution greater than the first (page 1, section 0011 of Li).

Regarding claim 12, combination of Katata '061 and Li '488 teaches, quantization interval used to code zones of lowest resolution (col. 10, lines 25 – 28 of Katata).

Regarding claims 13 - 16, the limitation, the closer the pixels of the first zone are to the second zone, the more their resolution increased, claim 13" are within the scope of the katata reference. Since it is known that, those pixels of the lower (first) zone that are closer to the upper (enhancement) zones have higher resolution, and intermediate resolution is allocated to all the pixels of the first zone, in claim 14 (Katata, fig. 2, H1, intermediate layer), and intermediate resolution of each pixel of the first zone is a linear function of the distance of this pixel from the second zone, in claim 15 and 16, it is a common knowledge that intermediate pixel/pixel between the first zone and the second zone have a liner function with respect to the distance to each zones.

Regarding claim 17, combination of Katata '061 and Li '488 teaches, for the detection of the mixed blocks, use is made of a mask reproducing the shape of the zones in such a way as to associate the pixels of the image with a zone and to determine the resolution applied to these pixels (fig. 1 – 6, and abstract of Li).

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katata '061 in view of fig. 1 of applicant admitted prior art.

Regarding claim 7, the limitations, transforming data of frequency domain to spatial domain, as claimed are within the scope of video processing of Katata '061 reference. Katata '061 does not specifically show the customary way of processing "image is coded via data or coefficients in the frequency domain, and in that to allocate to each pixel of the mixed blocks the resolution which corresponds to its zone, the data of the frequency domain are retransformed into the spatial domain, and, after the allocation of resolutions, these mixed blocks are retransformed into the frequency domain" as claimed. However the above features are notoriously well known to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made, as evidenced by fig. 1, of applicant admitted prior art for converting the video signal from frequency domain to spatial domain and back to the frequency domain.

7. Claim 4, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katata '061 in view of Jiang (US 2002/0118743).

Regarding claim 4, Katata '061 teaches, MPEG block-wise video coding, and predictive coding, which is a differentiate coding (col.22, lines 30 – 45).

Katata '061 is silent in regards to, residual used wholly or partly to define the improvement layer.

However, such features are well known and used in the prior art of the record as evidenced by Jiang (i.e. fig. 1, 14 and page 2, section 0030, residual calculator).

In view of the above, taking the combined teaching of Katata and Jiang as a whole, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to calculate residual differences between the base and enhancement layer to define the enhancement layer based on the residual difference, as suggested by Jiang (page 2, section 0030, residual calculation).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of the record fails to anticipate or rendered obvious the limitation, characterized in that a coefficient $A(i,j)$ calculated according to the formula $A(i,j) = (PQ/c) + v''(ij)$, is allocated to any pixel $(P(i,j))$ situated at a row i and at a column j , where c is a constant and $v''(ij)$ is the mask value allocated to the pixel $P(i,j)$ by this mask, the resolution $N(i,j)$ of each pixel $(P(i,j))$ of a mixed block then being equal to:

$$N(i,j) = A(i,j) \cdot Zin(i,j) + (1 - A(i,j)) \cdot (Zfd(i,j))$$
, where $Zfd(i,j)$ represents the resolution allocated to the background zone where this pixel $P(i,j)$ was located and $Zin(i,j)$ represents the resolution allocated to the zone of interest neighbouring this background zone.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Behrooz Senfi** whose telephone

number is **(571) 272-7339**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mehrdad Dastouri** can be reached on **(571) 272-7418**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relative to the status of the application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6000**.

B. M. S.

4/14/2006


MYLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER